(c) whether Government would take it up with the US Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Resumption of Indo-Australia Military Ties

3683. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Australia recently resumed military ties, which were jerked off the rails after the 1998 Pokharan nuclear tests, when both countries withdrew their military attaches and other military contacts came to a grinding halt;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when an agreement between the two countries would be signed resuming supply of defence equipments to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Normal defence ties between India and Australia were restored in principle during the visit of Foreign Minister Alexander Downer to India from March 21—24, 2000. Subsequently a defence delegation led by Mr. Hugh White, Deputy Secretary (Strategy), Department of Defence, Government of Australia visited India from 25-28 May, 2000 to discuss with Indian authorities the resumption of these ties. In accordance with agreements reached in these discussions, Australia's Defence Adviser has resumed his post in New Delhi in January, 2001 while GOI is also in the process of nominating a Defence Adviser to Australia.